

The Prayer Book Society of Canada

OTTAWA BRANCH NEWSLETTER

Lent 2008

The Prayer Book Society of Canada promotes the understanding and use of the Book of Common Prayer as a scriptural system of nurture for life in Christ.

Society Mission Statement

Almighty and everlasting God, who hastest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent : Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect for Ash Wednesday, *BCP*, page 138

FORTHCOMING SERVICES and EVENTS

Saturday, March 8 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Lenten Quiet Day led by two members of the Order of the Holy Cross at St Barnabas' Church, Kent and James Streets
Sunday, March 9 7:00 p.m.	Evensong and Benediction for Passion Sunday (Lent V), followed by a reception at St Barnabas' Church, Kent and James Streets
Sunday, April 20 7:00 p.m.	Festal Solemn Evensong and Benediction for Easter IV followed by a reception at St Barnabas' Church
Tuesday, April 22 7:30 p.m.	Annual General Meeting will be conducted in the Fred Allen Memorial Hall, St Barnabas' Church
Sunday, April 27 7:00 p.m.	Choral Evensong for Rogation Sunday will be sung by Cathedral Singers at St Columba's Church, Manor Park.
Sunday, May 18 7:00 p.m.	Festal Evensong and Benediction for Trinity Sunday, followed by a reception at St Barnabas' Church

Branch Officers

Chairman	Joan Wilson	1512 - 641 Bathgate Drive, Ottawa, ON K1K 3Y3	(613) 749-5058
Vice-Chair	Wesley Warren	2695 Priscilla Street, Ottawa, ON K2B 7E1	(613) 726-6341
Treasurer	Frances Macdonnell	303 - 3099 Carling Avenue, Ottawa, ON K2H 5A6	(613) 726-7984

Chairman's Remarks

At the February meeting of your Executive, grave concern was expressed for the suitability of the educational portions of our programmes. You have continually demonstrated your support for the Chinese Dinner and Concert fund raiser, the Carp Choral Evensong and Pot-luck Supper and the service for Prayer Book Sunday, usually held outside the Ottawa area. Our other events, however, have not recently attracted a great deal of membership attendance. Does this indicate that our other events do not pique your interest? Some of them have been quite expensive to organize, and it is disappointing when so few of our members attend them.

We would like to hear what kind of events those who are physically able to attend would prefer. In the meantime, we shall plan to sponsor joint events with other organizations, making such events more financially viable.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a brief review of The Rev. Gethin Edward's text from the Advent Quiet Day together with further information on Nicholas Hatt's work in Belize. The dedication of both these young men to our Anglican way of life is encouraging indeed particularly during this time of upheaval. The members of your Executive want to thank you for your continuing donations which make our financial assistance to them possible, as well as enabling us to support national projects such as the St Michael's Youth Conferences / camps and the publication of the Sue Careless books.

Let's hear from you. Contact numbers are on the front of each newsletter.

Joan Wilson
Chairman, Ottawa Branch

Editor's Note:

A review of material presented by The Rev. Gethin Edward at last December's Advent Quiet Day will appear in a future Issue of this Newsletter. Similarly, especially for those without Internet access, we will provide more information about Nicholas Hatt's adventures of last summer. Excerpts of his "Letters back home" were included in the Trinity and Michaelmas 2007 issues.

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BCP Mattins . . .

You are reminded that Sung Mattins is held the first Sunday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at Christ Church Cathedral. The Service lasts about 30 minutes.

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Although this is our Lenten Issue of the Branch Newsletter, the Branch Executive sends warmest wishes to all our members and friends for a joyful and blessed Easter.
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Annual General Meeting of the Ottawa Branch

Our **Annual General Meeting** will convene in the Fred Allen Memorial Hall of St Barnabas Church on **Tuesday, April 22nd, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.**

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Attendance at Annual General Meetings in recent years has been very poor. Please join with your Executive - your input will be very much appreciated. Please mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend this year's AGM. Should you need a ride to and from the church, please call Joan Wilson at 613-749-5058 and she will be glad to make arrangements for you.

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Advance Notices

As noted in the calendar on the first page of this Newsletter, The Cathedral Singers, under the direction of Frances Macdonnell, will sing Choral Evensong at **St Columba's, Manor Park, on Sunday, April 27th (Rogation Sunday)** at 7:00 p.m.

We hope to continue with our long-standing tradition of having our Annual Evensong and dinner in the Parish of Carp in late June. Detailed information will follow in the next Newsletter.

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**** *Latest News* ****

*from the Ottawa Branch
of the Prayer Book Society of Canada*

Our Branch has gone "**electronic**". Recent issues of our Branch Newsletter are now accessible on the site maintained by the National Society. If you have Internet access and would like to refer to this issue or an earlier issue, please go to { { <http://www.prayerbook.ca/branches.html> } } and scroll down until you find the entry for the Ottawa Branch. Current issues are identified by the title (Church's season) of the particular issue.

As each Issue is forwarded electronically to the printer, it will also be forwarded to the National site.

To save the costs of postage and printing of each Issue, if you would prefer to receive your copy via electronic means, please advise the Branch Newsletter Editor, Ronald Bentley at rwbentley@sympatico.ca. He will be glad to send you your copy via the Internet.

St Michael's Youth Conference 2008

For information, see the Ontario Conference website at www.stmikesontario.com . If you, your Rector, or fellow parishioners know of any teenagers who would be interested in attending this year's Conference and who might appreciate financial assistance, please contact Joan Wilson at 613-749-5058. The 2008 Conference will be held from August 18th to 23rd, near the town of Durham (northwest of Toronto).

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The 28th Atlantic Theological Conference

Entitled "**Christian Psychology**", this year's conference will be held at the University of King's College, in Halifax, beginning in the afternoon of Tuesday June 24th and ending at noon on Friday June 27th.

The Conference Eucharist will be held at St George's (Round) Church on the Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

The Service will be followed at 8:00 p.m. by a "**Special Evening Lecture in honour of The Revd. Dr. Robert Crouse**" to be given by Dr. Michael Treschow. Dr Treschow spoke to members of the Ottawa Branch a number of years ago.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend. For those with Internet access, please check the Conference schedule on the St Peter's Cathedral website at www.stpeter.org/cathedra.html .

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Special Notice

You are encouraged to attend the **Lenten Quiet Day** to be held at St Barnabas Church on **Saturday, March 8th from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** It will be led by Fr Christian Swayne and Br Kevin, two members of the Order of the Holy Cross from Toronto. The Quiet Day will conclude a week that they will have spent in the Parishes of Huntley (St James', Carp) and St Paul's, Kanata. Although not co-sponsored by the Branch this year, members are encouraged to attend this Quiet Day (the day before Passion Sunday) as we begin the last two weeks of Lent.

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Advent and Lenten Quiet Days have traditionally been popular times of reflection and contemplation with members of the Branch. Recently we have been partnering with parishioners of St Barnabas Church. The number of those in attendance could be better! Suffice it to say, though, the Quiet Days have been well received by those who have attended them, and they form an excellent means of preparation for the major feast days of the Church.

Last December, our Advent Quiet Day was conducted by The Rev. Gethin Edward, who was ordained to the Diaconate last September in the Diocese of Fredericton. Introducing the Quiet Day, he noted that *“a Quiet Day was a time to take time for our faith, to sit uninterrupted with our Christian faith, and with its Lord, to not turn our minds away in haste or in fear or in laziness or business, to come with Him into a quiet place and rest awhile, so as to be renewed, to be refreshed.”* He mentioned also that there were two sides to this — *“what we take in”* and *“how this can change us in our daily lives”*.

We expect to include, with his permission, some of the material from the Advent Quiet Day in our Michaelmas 2008 Newsletter. The following, though, is as appropriate for Lent as it is in Advent.

LOVE (III)

by
George Herbert

Love bade me welcome, yet my soul drew back,
Guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-ey'd Love, observing me grow slack
From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning
If I lack'd anything.

"A guest," I answer'd, "worthy to be here";
Love said, "You shall be he."
"I, the unkind, the ungrateful? ah my dear,
I cannot look on thee."
Love took my hand and smiling did reply,
"Who made the eyes but I?"

"Truth, Lord, but I have marr'd them; let my shame
Go where it doth deserve."
"And know you not," says Love, "who bore the blame?"
"My dear, then I will serve."
"You must sit down," says Love, "and taste my meat."
So I did sit and eat.

In the meantime, plan to join with members of the Branch and parishioners from St Barnabas, the Parish of Huntley, and St Paul's, Kanata, on Saturday March 8th, as we prepare for Easter. If you would appreciate a ride to and from the church, please call Joan Wilson at 613-749-5058 and she will be glad to make arrangements for you.

**Fund-Raising Concerts by Angela Hewitt for the
Godfrey Hewitt Memorial Scholarship Fund**

J. S. Bach - The Well-Tempered Clavier

Part I - Saturday May 10, 3:00 p.m., and **Part II** - Tuesday May 13, 7:30 p.m.
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Ottawa (Kent Street at Wellington)

Angela Hewitt, Canada's favourite concert pianist, has announced that she will give two Bach piano recitals this May to raise additional funds for the scholarship fund in memory of her father, Godfrey Hewitt, organist of Christ Church Cathedral, Ottawa, from 1931 to 1980. As you may recall, this scholarship, established after Godfrey's death in 2002, offers an award of \$5,000 annually to an outstanding Canadian graduate student in organ. As Angela's mother Marion has now died too, Angela is very kindly donating these two concerts to increase the capital of the Fund. One of the best ways of keeping our Anglican world going is to ensure the supply of well-trained church musicians, it would be wonderful if enough money can be raised to provide two scholarships annually. Our Branch of the PBSC has supported this scholarship with an annual contribution since its start.

Tickets will be priced at:

Adults \$30 per concert, or \$50 for both concerts
Students \$20 per concert, or \$30 for both concerts

In addition, there will be 150 special fund-raising tickets at \$200 each, which will cover:

- Tickets to both concerts with priority reserved seating closest to Angela Hewitt
- A garden party reception at an embassy (TBA) with Angela on May 11 or 12
- A tax receipt for \$120

For tickets or for more detailed information, please use the tear-off below, or contact Frances Macdonnell at fmacdon@magma.ca . Thank you very much!

- Frances Macdonnell

To: Frances Macdonnell
303 - 3099 Carling Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario K2H 5A6

Please make cheques payable to: RCCO - Ottawa Centre

Name: _____
Address: _____

Please send me _____ tickets @ \$30 for May 10 concert = \$ _____

Please send me _____ tickets @ \$30 for May 13 concert = \$ _____

Please send me _____ tickets @ \$50 for both concerts = \$ _____

Please send me _____ tickets @ \$200 for both concerts, the garden party reception, and a tax receipt for \$120.

I cannot attend the concerts but would like to make a tax-deductible donation of \$ _____.

A Sermon for the Fourth Sunday in Lent

The Homeward Journey of our Souls

by Robert. D. Crouse

“Jerusalem which is above is free; which is the mother of us all” (Galatians 4.26)



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In the Bible and in Christian tradition, numbers are often full of symbolical significance, and such is the case with the forty days of Lent. These forty days, of course, recall the forty days of Jesus' fasting and temptation in the wilderness. But they recall, as well, the forty years of exile of the Israelites in Babylon, longing for return, their home-coming to Jerusalem. “By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept, when we remembered thee, O Sion... If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning” [Psalm 137]. These forty days of Lent recall those forty years of Exodus, the forty years of Israel's journey from captivity in Egypt, the struggle through the wilderness to the promised land of freedom, led by a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night, sustained by manna from the skies, and water from the stony rock.

Behind all this rich and complex symbolism, there are ideas which are both simple and altogether basic for our spiritual life as Christians. There is, first of all, a diagnosis of our condition as alienation, exile, bondage, and captivity in a foreign land. Spiritually, it means our alienation from God, our separation from our spirit's home, and our wandering through a barren wilderness, a place of trials and temptations, striving to return. Then, there is the journey's destination, the promised land, the city of Jerusalem, the house of God, the place of peace and reconciliation. Spiritually that means the spirit's home, the true and perfect and eternal good, for which our spirits yearn. “Like as the hart desireth the water-brooks, so longeth my soul after thee, O God. My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God. When shall I come to appear before the presence of God?” [Psalm 42]. Thirdly, there is the

idea of divine sustenance and guidance through the journey. Spiritually, that means the Providence of God, the watchful care and nutriment of our poor spirits by the truth of God, in word and sacrament.

Alienation, and home-coming, under the providence of God: that is the story of Israel: forty years of Exodus from Egypt, and forty years of captivity in Babylon. Symbolically, it is the story of the struggle of the human soul, as it makes its homeward way to God. It is the symbol, the shadow; the substance of which is Christ's journey through death and resurrection, in which we follow him.

Lent represents to us this pilgrimage, the inner journey of the soul, struggling in the wilderness of trials and temptations, seeking a spiritual Jerusalem, the homeland of the spirit. This wilderness, you see, is not some external place, or some external circumstances; it is nothing but the soul's confused, unfruitful life before it finds its meeting-place in God. With the passing of the centuries, of course, the images do change. For William Blake, for instance, writing his poem on Jerusalem, the place of alienation is not the wilderness, but the “dark, satanic mills” of industrial-revolution England. The journey is symbolized by the “sword of mental strife” and the “arrows of desire”; and the symbol of the life of the spirit is not the city, but the “green and pleasant land”. Nowadays, I suppose we are inclined to think of the wilderness as the place of peace and recreation, and of the city as the place of dark and unknown perils. The images do change, but the basic thought remains the same. The journey is the inner journey of the soul, the

soul's own transformation, as it finds renewal of the mind in God, through the providence of God's own revelation. That is the basic theme of Lent – the journey to Jerusalem – and it is in that context that we should think about our scripture lessons for the Sundays of this season.

The lessons for the past three Sundays have all been about trials and temptations, about Jesus' fasting and temptations in the wilderness, and the rebuking and casting out of devils. Those demons are in some sense fantasies, and yet, they are certainly some sort of spiritual realities, not easily dismissed. They are the false passions and attachments and ideals which certainly exist, and enter in, and powerfully possess our souls. That is to say, they are the false gods we so readily entertain, and foolishly set our hearts upon, and thus separate ourselves from the true and living God. That is our bondage and captivity – that is Babylon and Egypt, the foreign land of exile.

Those demons, those false gods are not impregnable, and their pretensions can be shattered. Often enough, they reveal their feet of clay, and we

become disillusioned with them, and cast out one or two of them. But as last Sunday's Gospel taught us [St. Luke 11.14-28],

the casting out of demons is not enough – the empty, disillusioned soul is vulnerable to more, and yet more vicious, demons. “When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest: and finding none, he saith, I will return to my house whence I came out; and when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished: then goeth he and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there, and the last state of that man is worse than the first.” The vacant soul is vulnerable to new and stronger frauds and fallacies, and the number waiting to enter in, and make us captive once again, is legion.

The empty soul, the swept and garnished house, is not enough; in fact, it is an altogether perilous situation. And thus, today's lessons

**O food of men wayfaring,
The bread of angels sharing,
O manna from on high!
We hunger, Lord, supply us,
Nor thy delights deny us
Whose hearts to thee draw nigh.**
(O esca viatorum, English Hymnal #321)

speak to us of spiritual nutriment, the filling of our souls with the truth and grace of God. The Gospel lesson is the story of the multitude in the wilderness, miraculously fed by Christ; and the Epistle lesson bids us rejoice in the promise of the free and heavenly Jerusalem, “the mother of us all.” Because of these themes, the day has several traditional names: Sometimes it is called “Laetare Sunday”, from the first word of the ancient Latin introit, which means ‘Rejoice’. Another ancient name is “Dominica Refectionis”, which means ‘Refreshment Sunday’. And still another traditional name, reflecting the theme of the Epistle, is “Mothering Sunday”, and the day has been observed, especially in England, as Mothers’ Day.

These several names reflect one basic thought: the homeward journey of our souls is sustained and nourished by the Word of God in Christ, by that Providence which keeps alive within us the vision of Jerusalem, the City of our freedom, our native land of pure and perfect good. That is the bread which sustains us in the wilderness, and nothing less will ever satisfy the restless heart.

St. Paul speaks of the heavenly Jerusalem as “the mother of us all”. Our mothers give us birth, and nourish us, and guide our steps. So does the heavenly Jerusalem, the Providence of God, give birth to our spirit's life, and nourish it, and guide its upward way. It is the office of the Church on earth to be an outpost of that true Jerusalem, the free city of the spirit. That is what the word *Parish* means – a colony, or outpost – and thus, the Church's task is mothering, with word and sacrament, with discipline and teaching; rebuking and casting out our demons, certainly, but also nourishing our souls with the vision of a higher and freer life. That is bread in the wilderness, the daily rations for our journey, and the ground of our rejoicing.

“A FAITHFUL WATCHMAN, MESSENGER AND STEWARD OF THE LORD FOR 21 YEARS.”

This article is reprinted with the gracious permission of The Rev'd Canon Peter W. Harris and *The Anglican Free Press*, The Spring Issue 2005.

(Please note that due to transmission problems, the photograph of Fr Crouse and portions of text are placed differently from the original.)

